



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

U.S. EMBASSY LIMITS FEDERAL BENEFITS AND VISA SERVICES DURING OLYMPICS 2004 July 30, 2004

Due to the need to provide assistance to exceptional numbers of American visitors to Greece during the Olympic Games, the U.S. Embassy will be able to provide only very limited Federal Benefits Unit (FBU) services. Visitors to the FBU will not be accommodated from August 11 through August 31. Some very limited phone service will remain available, however, from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 210-720-2426. FBU Athens plans on resuming normal business hours as of September 1, 2004.

Visa services will also be limited from August 7 through August 31. Applicants for student visas will be accommodated as much as possible. However, routine applications for tourist, crew, or working visas will not be accepted during this period. Therefore, the Embassy strongly encourages any Greek citizens who anticipate the need to travel to the U.S. during the late summer or fall to make their interview appointments and apply early. More information on the application process is available through the Embassy's website at www.usembassy.gr or by telephone at 210-720-2442, 2443, or 2445.

American Embassy
Consular Section
Athens Greece